

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02564 110516Z

17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 103083

O 110445Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9290

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NAKHOM PHANUM THAI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2564

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS IMMEDIATE INFO CJCS WASHDC; SECDEF WASHDC; NSC THE WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MASS, MMOL, CB, US

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION RESUPPLY PROBLEM GROWING MORE CRITICAL DAILY

REF: JCS 110037Z FEB 75

1. WE CURRENTLY HAVE IN PHNOM PENH APPROXIMATELY A 13-DAY SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION FOR FANK AT THE MINIMUM RATE OF CONSUMPTION POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT COMBAT CONDITIONS.

2. DESPITE THE BIRD AIR RESUPPLY EFFORT, CURRENTLY RUNNING AT THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF NINE AIRLAND AMMO RESUPPLY SORTIES PER DAY, BY 16 FEBRUARY WE WILL BE REDUCED TO THE FOLLOWING LEVELS OF CRITICAL TYPES OF AMMUNITION:

LR

PSS	G	DAYS OF SUPPLY
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105MM HOWITZER		6
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MORTAR		8
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SMALL ARMS		12
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ANTI-PERSONNEL BOMBS		0
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3. IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE ABOVE THAT ONE WEEK FROM TODAY WE WILL HAVE FALLEN TO SUCH A CRITICALLY LOW LEVEL OF
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 02564 110516Z

AMMUNITION SUPPLY THAT THE FANK WILL LIKELY COLLAPSE.

IT WILL BE AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE THE BIRD AIR EFFORT
CAN BE DOUBLED TO UP TO 20 SORTIES PER DAY. THE EARLIEST
POSSIBLE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEKONG RIVER CONVOY IS
FEB. 18, A WEEK FROM TODAY, AND AS EVERYONE IS AWARE,
ITS CHANCES OF REACHING PHNOM PENH ARE PROBLEMATICAL.
EVEN IF IT MAKES IT HERE, IT WILL BRING US ONLY FOUR
DAYS' SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION.

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE FACTS ADD UP TO ONE CONCLUSION,
WHICH IS THAT A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY AIRLIFT OF AMMUNITION
BEYOND WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY BIRD AIR IS ESSENTIAL IF
WE ARE TO KEEP PHNOM PENH FROM FALLING TO THE ENEMY. WE NEED
UP TO 40 REPEAT 40 AIRLAND SORTIES PER DAY INTO POCHENTONG.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CJCS WASHDC AND SECDEF WASHDC.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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